

BARBARA WHIPPLE Trail System

The Barbara Whipple Trail, established in 1991, honors a prominent and much-respected Buena Vista citizen. Barbara Whipple (1920-1989) moved to Buena Vista from Pennsylvania in 1976 with her husband Grant Heilman. An accomplished artist, she opened one of Buena Vista’s first galleries on East Main Street, and co-founded the Arkansas Valley Council on the Arts. Her art was based on nature, and she enjoyed hiking and exploring the river’s edge and the Midland Hill area which these trails serve.

The Arkansas River pedestrian bridge, constructed in 1990, connects the Buena Vista River Park to the Whipple Trail System, the Midland Bicycle Trail, and 100,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management and U.S.Forest Service public lands called Fourmile.

The historic main Whipple Trail follows the steep and winding 130-year old “Hack Road.” From 1887 to 1918 the Midland Railroad transported passengers and freight by carriages and wagons (hacks) down to Buena Vista from its depot on Midland Hill 400 feet above the the river’s east side. The railroad stayed high to maintain its Leadville-bound elevation. The hack road made a thrilling approach to town with a great view of the valley and Continental Divide for those passengers who didn’t have their eyes closed in terror. The hacks and burro trains hauled the valley’s agricultural products and sacks of silver and gold up to the depot for shipping to the Front Range. The Hack Road Bridge crossed the river near the second shelter’s interpretive kiosk.

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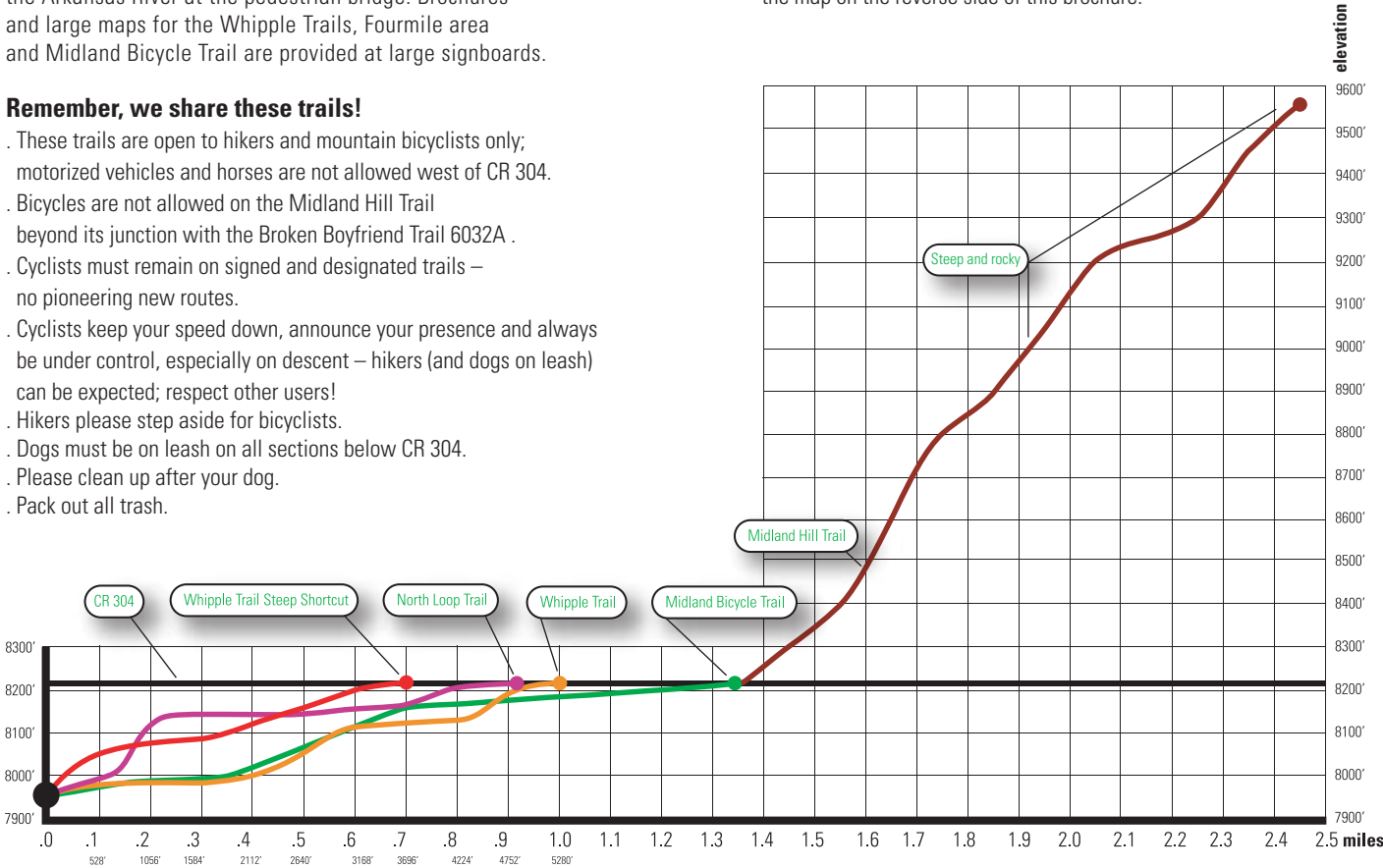
The Town of Buena Vista and
Fourmile Travel Management Area



How to get to the Barbara Whipple trailhead
The trailhead, restrooms and parking are located at the eastern end of East Main Street in Buena Vista, adjacent to the Arkansas River at the pedestrian bridge. Brochures and large maps for the Whipple Trails, Fourmile area and Midland Bicycle Trail are provided at large signboards.

- Remember, we share these trails!**
- . These trails are open to hikers and mountain bicyclists only; motorized vehicles and horses are not allowed west of CR 304.
 - . Bicycles are not allowed on the Midland Hill Trail beyond its junction with the Broken Boyfriend Trail 6032A .
 - . Cyclists must remain on signed and designated trails – no pioneering new routes.
 - . Cyclists keep your speed down, announce your presence and always be under control, especially on descent – hikers (and dogs on leash) can be expected; respect other users!
 - . Hikers please step aside for bicyclists.
 - . Dogs must be on leash on all sections below CR 304.
 - . Please clean up after your dog.
 - . Pack out all trash.

Elevation and distances
The profiles below illustrate the steepness and distance of the trails in this complex. More information is available on the map on the reverse side of this brochure.



Participants
The Barbara Whipple Trail is a part of the Buena Vista Trail System developed by the Town of Buena Vista and the Buena Vista Trails Advisory Board, with private and public support from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, the Colorado Department of Wildlife’s Fishing is Fun program, Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), Greater Arkansas River Nature Association, Buena Vista High School, Friends of Fourmile, generous private donors, and many additional community organizations and volunteers. The Midland Bicycle Trail, which begins here, is a joint BLM/U.S.Forest Service project, with assistance from Friends of Fourmile volunteers.

The Buena Vista Police, Chaffee County Sheriff, Bureau of Land Management and Friends of Fourmile patrol the area regularly. They will respond to concerns and advise on responsible use.

To report a violation or for information contact
Bureau of Land Management
Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area, Salida
719 539-7289

Buena Vista Department of Public Works
719 395-6898

Buena Vista Police
719 395-8654

Chaffee County Sheriff
719 539-2596

Emergency 911

To join, volunteer or to make a donation
Friends of Fourmile, a GARNA chapter
719 539-5106 Visit our website at www.garna.org



**Expect and respect
other users!**

photo, courtesy of Buena Vista Heritage